



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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Former Background Investigator for Federal Government Sentenced to Prison for Making a False Statement

WASHINGTON - Suzanne Weeks, a 61-year-old former Special Agent of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management ("OPM"), who conducted federal background investigations, was sentenced today to five months in prison followed by five months of home confinement for making a false statement, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced.

Weeks, of West Palm Beach, Florida, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman, after pleading guilty in February 2009. The Court also ordered that, following her release from prison, Weeks be placed on three years of supervised release, of which the five months of home detention is a part. In addition, the Court ordered Weeks to pay a total of \$101,180.48 in restitution to OPM.

According to the factual proffer agreed to by Weeks at the time of her plea, Weeks was employed as a Special Agent of OPM and assigned to the Federal Investigative Services Division ("FISD"), where her job was to conduct federal background investigations. OPM-FISD, formerly known as the Center for Federal Investigative Services, is responsible for conducting background investigations for numerous federal agencies and their contractors. OPM-FISD has an investigator workforce comprised of federal agents employed by OPM-FISD and investigators employed by various companies under contract with OPM-FISD to conduct background investigations. OPM-FISD conducts background investigations of individuals who are either employed by or seeking employment with federal agencies or government contractors. The purpose of the background investigations is to determine individuals' suitability for positions having access to classified information, for positions impacting national security, and for receiving or retaining security clearances.

In conducting these background investigations, federal investigators conduct interviews of individuals who have information about the person who is the subject of the background investigation. In addition, federal investigators seek out, obtain, and review documentary evidence, such as employment records, to verify and corroborate information provided by either the subject of the background investigation or by persons interviewed

during the investigation. After conducting interviews and obtaining documentary evidence, federal investigators prepare a Report of Investigation ("ROI"), containing the results of the interviews and record reviews, and electronically submit the ROI to OPM in Washington, D.C. OPM then provides a copy of the investigative file to the requesting agency and maintains a copy in its records system.

The ROI containing the results of the interviews and record reviews conducted during a background investigation is utilized and relied upon by the agency requesting the background investigation to determine whether the subject of the investigation is suitable for a position having access to classified information, for a position impacting national security, or for receiving or retaining security clearance.

Between December 2004 and June 2006, in at least a dozen ROI's on background investigations, Weeks represented that she had interviewed a source regarding the subject of the background investigation when, in truth and in fact, she had not conducted the interview. These false statements were material, as they influenced the government's decisions and activities with respect to the subjects of those background investigations.

For example, on or about January 17, 2006, in a ROI of a background investigation of J.S., Weeks represented that she had interviewed J.K. about J.S. (and reported what J.K. had purportedly stated about J.S.), when, in truth and in fact, Weeks had not interviewed J.K. about J.S. On the same date, Weeks electronically submitted to OPM in Washington, D.C., her ROI on the background investigation of J.S., which contained the abovementioned false statement. This false statement was material, as it influenced the government's decisions and activities with respect to J.S.

Weeks's false statements in her ROI's on background investigations have required OPM-FISD to reopen and rework numerous background investigations that were assigned to Weeks during the time period of her falsifications, at an estimated cost of \$101,180.48 to the United States government.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips praised the hard work of Special Agent Derek M. Holt, OPM, Office of the Inspector General, and Philip Kroop, Chief, Integrity Assurance Group, OPM-FISD. Mr. Phillips also acknowledged the efforts of Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ellen Chubin Epstein and Thomas E. Zeno, who investigated and prosecuted this matter.

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